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REMARKS

Claims 1-41 were pending. Claims 1-3, 11, and 13-16 have been amended, and claims 20 and 22-41 have been canceled. As a result of this amendment, claims 1-19, and 21 are pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are requested in light of the accompanying amendments and remarks.

Applicants affirm the election of Group 1, claims 1-21. Claims 22-41 have been canceled without prejudice pending their resubmission in a timely filed divisional application.

The rejection of claims 1-7, and 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Harvey has been overcome. Harvey discloses a multi-layer overcoating comprised of alternating layers of polymer film and dielectric material. The multi-layer overcoating can be deposited on an uppermost or lower planar surface, or on all planar surfaces of the substrate.

The examiner stated that "[c]laims 1-7, 9-10, 12 are met by the recitation of a substrate 11, an environmentally sensitive device (array of pixels of organic light emitting devices susceptible to oxygen and moisture in the surrounding atmosphere) and at least one initial barrier stack 16 adjacent to the substrate comprising at least one decoupling layer 17 and at least one barrier layer 18 (col. 4, lines 1-30)."

However, Harvey does not disclose an edge-sealed barrier film composite as now claimed. Harvey's multi-layer overcoating contains alternating layers of polymer and dielectric. The dielectric layers do not contact one another and do not seal the polymer layer between them. Thus, Harvey does not disclose or suggest an edge-sealed barrier film composite in which the "the first barrier layer is in contact with the substrate or a third barrier layer, sealing the first decoupling layer between the first barrier layer and the substrate or the third barrier layer," as now claimed.

Nor does Harvey teach an edge-sealed barrier film composite as recited in claim 11. The barrier layer of the barrier stack that seals the organic LED in Harvey is not in contact with the substrate as claimed. Harvey does not teach that "the at least one barrier layer of the at least one initial barrier stack is in contact with the substrate, sealing the

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environmentally sensitive device between the at least one barrier layer of the at least one initial barrier stack and the substrate," as now recited in claim 11.

With regard to claim 2, Harvey does not teach a barrier film composite having a barrier stack including at least two barrier layers, and in which "the first and second barrier layers are in contact and seal the first decoupling layer between them," as now recited.

With respect to claim 3, Harvey does not teach a barrier film composite having at least two initial barrier stacks, in which "the first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack and the first barrier layer of the second initial barrier stack are in contact and seal the first decoupling layer of the first initial barrier stack between them," as now claimed.

Therefore, claims 1-7, and 9-12 are not anticipated by Harvey.

The rejection of claims 8, and 13-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Harvey has been overcome. According to the examiner, "the environmentally sensitive device 12 is sealed between the at least one initial barrier stack 16 and the at least one additional barrier stack 22." However, Harvey does not teach or suggest an edge-sealed barrier film composite or an edge-sealed, encapsulated environmentally sensitive device, as claimed. As discussed above, Harvey has alternating polymer layers and dielectric layers on the substrate, and the dielectric layers do not contact one another.

As to claims 8 and 13, which depend from claim 1, there is no teaching or suggestion in Harvey of an edge-sealed barrier film composite in which "the first barrier layer is in contact with the substrate or a third barrier layer, sealing the first decoupling layer between the first barrier layer and the substrate or the third barrier layer," as now claimed.

Nor does Harvey teach or suggest a barrier stack in which "the first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack is in contact with a third barrier layer or the substrate, sealing the first decoupling layer of the first initial barrier stack between the first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack and the third barrier layer or the substrate" as now recited in claim 14.

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With respect to claim 15, Harvey does not teach or suggest an edge-sealed, encapsulated environmentally sensitive device in which the first initial barrier stack includes at least two barrier layers, and in which "the first and second barrier layers of the first initial barrier stack are in contact and seal the first decoupling layer of the first initial barrier stack between them," as now claimed.

With regard to claim 16, Harvey does not teach or suggest an edge-sealed, encapsulated environmentally sensitive device including at least two initial barrier stacks, in which "the first barrier layer of the first initial barrier stack and the first barrier layer of the second initial barrier stack are in contact and seal the first decoupling layer of the first initial barrier stack between them," as now claimed.

Therefore, claims 8, and 13-21, as amended, would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made over Harvey.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that, in view of the above amendment and remarks, the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-19, and 21 be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding the present application, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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